

THE PROBLEM WITH GHOSTS . . .

You may have wondered why I was drawn—as a Christian author—to writing ghost stories.

The Bible is the most supernatural book that has ever been written. Within its pages are ghosts and spirits, angels and demons, witches and wizards along with magicians, mediums, and spiritists who practice divination.

But wait! There's more!

Don't forget the unique creatures that inhabit the Bible, like dragons and dinosaurs, and giants, or the divine beings who occupy God's heavenly council, or the watchers who descended to live on the earth among humankind.

Oh, and how about this: John 4:24 says . . . God is a *spirit*. We are called to worship Him in *spirit* and in truth (reality).

There are supernatural events told of in the Bible:

Enoch was a prophet and a godly individual who walked with God 300 years. Genesis says, "Enoch was not, for God took him." Was this a teleportation event?

Ezekiel saw the wheel. Was it a transport vessel of some kind to take him to heaven? He disappeared shortly thereafter.

Several people who died were brought back to life. Demon possessed people were freed from evil spirits.

Whoa! Before I spiral down a wormhole, let's talk about those ghosts.

Do ghosts really exist? There can be only two answers to this question.

If you think a ghost is the spirit of someone who has died, then an unequivocal "NO."

Hebrews 9:27 NLT says, "Man is destined once to die, after that the judgment." This means the soul/spirit does not remain on earth; it goes to one of two eternal places. Heaven for the believer, and Hell for the unbeliever. Remember the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

If you believe a ghost is a spirit being, then "YES."

Spirits are very real. The bible never refers to ghosts as the dead and departed. They are *spirit beings*, created by God.

The Bible clearly teaches about good and evil spirits, not dead humans who stay behind to "haunt" a place or person. Up until recent years, our Bible referred to the third person of the

trinity as the "Holy Ghost." Within the last 40 or so years, an explosion of different translations have appeared to clarify or remove difficult wording or to make uncomfortable verses easier to understand.

Here are some verses to get *you* thinking:

1 Samuel 28:13 NIV The King said to her, "Don't be afraid. Who do you see?" The woman said, "I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth."

Luke 24:39 NIV They (the apostles) were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost (spirit).

Judges 3:10 NIV And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

Genesis 25: 8 NIV Then Abraham gave up the ghost (spirit).

So, *ghost* is another term for *spirit*.

The Issachar gatekeeper is a clean, fun, faith-based adventure that will introduce tweens, teens, and young adults to spiritual concepts within a biblical worldview. Readers with a faith-filled background will recognize various references, while readers with little or no exposure to God's word will still enjoy a ghostly adventure with spirits, shapeshifters and a benevolent High King and evil entities.

The ghostly theme of this series is designed to attract the interest of young people. After all, everyone enjoys a bit of a thrill occasionally. I hope this short exploration of Scripture will ease any anxieties Christians might feel about the use of "ghosts" in my novels.

Now, go read that overtly supernatural book we call . . . the Bible!